

From Organization #1:

- 1) Page 4 of the RFGA under Eligibility says that the Risk Assessment must be included with the application. Is this included in the binder within the 75-page limitation? On p. 13, it is mentioned under the program assurances, but it says to only submit one copy with the application. Is that within the 75 pages? Is it submitted in the original and all 4 copies, or only in the original?

Response: One copy of the completed Risk Assessment form (Attachment B) should be submitted with the original proposal only. It will not count towards the 75-page total and does not need to be included in the binder. For convenience, a fillable-pdf version of the Risk Assessment form will be posted on the program website along with these responses.

- 2) What provisions have been made to ensure that curricula to be used meet all of A-H requirements, as mentioned on pages 1 and 3? The program assurances on page 7 and 13 state that an applicant must only ensure that nothing contradicts A-H. These are two different statements that are not equal.

Response: In Section III.B.6., “Program Assurances”, the RFGA requires that an independent review of the proposed curriculum be provided. Past reviews have included determination of curriculum to be “A-H compliant” by the reviewing body. Such a determination would indicate that the curriculum meets the A-H definitions without contradiction of them and would fulfill the intent of the Legislative Provisos.

- 3) For the Service Delivery Area (p.4), the language says that applicants should utilize Table A to guide in the selection of counties. It also says there should be a focus on those groups who are most likely to bear children out of wedlock—including youth who are homeless, in foster care, live in rural areas or geographic areas with high teen birth rates, or who come from racial or ethnic minority groups with disparities in teen birth rates. If counties other than those in priority 1 or 2 are included, the applicant must provide justification for the inclusion of lower priority counties. What provisions have been made so that the review panel knows that the RFGA allows applicants to justify serving a priority 3-6 county based on targeting groups most likely to bear children out of wedlock? What provisions have been made to justify serving a priority 3-6 county, in which there are large numbers of teens likely to bear children out of wedlock?

Response: In Section III. B.2, the RFGA instructs applicants to “Identify the selection of service area. If counties other than priority areas 1 or 2 are included in an applicant’s plan, the applicant must provide justification for the inclusion of lower priority counties (e.g.: if planning to serve at-risk youth within a lower priority county, provide an explanation of risk status). See Table A on page 6.”

Table A was created by DHEC epidemiology staff using three-year county rates for the 5 indicators shown. Counties were ranked based on their relationship to the overall state rate for the 5 indicators, with counties who scored higher than the state rate on more of these indicators placed in priority areas ranked 1-2. Admittedly, some populations of youth who are at risk for out- of-wedlock, teenage pregnancies may be found in many SC counties. If applicants propose to work with youth in counties ranked at a lower priority than 1 or 2, a description of the high-risk population should be included as part of the description of the service area.

Questions received with responses for FY2019-RFGA-MC-902 – Emerging

Review panel members receive the RFGA documents for their orientation, review of, and scoring of applications. In addition, during their orientation, the review panel members will be reminded that certain risk factors (such as placement in foster care, homelessness, racial disparities etc.,) can contribute to the risk of bearing children out of wedlock and are appropriate to be considered in scoring.

- 4) Under the State-funded Abstinence Education Performance Measures for FY 2018-19, there is a goal of 3500 youth and 1500 adults. Is that goal a total expectation for this particular RFGA only? Is this goal a total expectation of the combined State Evidence and State Emerging Funds? Is this goal a total expectation of the combined State Evidence, State Emerging, and Title V funds?

Response: The goals stated are a cumulative total for students and/or adults to be reached through both Evidence-based and Emerging programs. The separate goals for each proviso may vary based on the kind of program proposed, but general guides would be as follows:

Emerging goal – to serve approximately 500 youth and 225 adults

Evidence-based goal – to serve approximately 3,000 students and @ 1,275 adults

- 5) On page 9E, there is a requirement for grantees to attend required DHEC sponsored trainings. Can you provide more detail about location, length of time, and frequency so that we may adequately budget for the travel expenses? Will there be any other expenses related to the trainings?

Response: At this time, one administrative training for grantees is anticipated in 2018-19 related to financial disbursement for invoices and travel reimbursement guidelines. The format of the training has not been confirmed (webinar or in-person), but it is anticipated as a 2-3-hour training. If scheduled as an in-person training, it would not require an overnight stay. Any travel-related expenses incurred by grantees will be reimbursed by DHEC.

- 6) We noticed that everything in the RFGA is centered around abstinence education, and there are no performance measures related to Positive Youth Development. Is it a correct understanding that Positive Youth Development activities that are not directly related to abstinence education will not be considered for this funding

Response: Although there are no specific performance measures specially related to Positive Youth Development (PYD), practices, we encourage the use of these practices which can influence success in meeting stated performance measures. We recognize that PYD programs promote positive outcomes in young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and giving support needed to develop young people's assets and prevent risky behaviors. <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/sites/default/files/pyd-tpp-checklist.pdf>

- 7) When School District letters of support is applicable to the application, superintendents are mentioned on page 6. Is it sufficient to instead provide a letter of support from anyone in the school district that is authorized to provide such letters? In many school districts, the elected Board and/or Directors of Curriculum control the approval and implementation rather than the superintendent.

Questions received with responses for FY2019-RFGA-MC-902 – Emerging

Response: The school district letter of support may be signed by the individual(s) for the particular school district with authority to approve student program/curriculum implementation.

From Organization #2:

- 1) Can the funds be used to provide incentives to clients who participate?

Response: Small tangible incentives with a primary prevention message may be allowed if the cost is reasonable and directly related to the program goals. As stated in the RFGA on page 8, C.2., “No funds may be used to make cash payments to intended recipients of services”.

- 2) Where are quarterly meetings held and do they require in-person attendance?

Response: Quarterly meetings are in-person and can be held either at the DHEC office in Columbia (2100 Bull Street) or at a location convenient to the grantee’s worksite. Rare exceptions for in-person meetings can be made if extenuating circumstances exist (such as weather, etc.).

Questions pertinent to both Evidence-based and Emerging RFGAs:

From Organization #1:

- 1) (Related to new pre-award Risk Assessment questionnaire – Attachment B). If financial accountability standards and procedures will be addressed in a separate document for future RFGA’s, will the same information still be required within the point section of the actual RFGA narrative? The summary of our financial accountability standards takes up a good bit of space that could otherwise be used to address other important issues for which points are awarded, so we want to use that space wisely and not repeat information that is required in a different document.

Response: Information submitted once in an application is not required to be repeated in a second location. Instead, applicants should refer to the page number/location of the original response within the application packet. Evaluators will be given all information submitted by applicants.

From Organization #2:

1. In our recent Quarterly meeting we were told we would be provided a fillable PDF file for the Risk Assessment. Is this still in the works, and if so, when might we expect the form?

Response: A fillable-PDF version of the Risk Assessment form will be posted on the program website along with these responses.

2. In the review process, will someone at DHEC be responsible for ensuring addition on scoring sheets completed by reviewers is correct before final award decisions are made?

Response: DHEC staff will review scores to check for possible addition errors prior to final awards being made.

3. In both RFGAs, under 1. Organizational History..., there are several new bullets for which the applicant must respond. Two of the new bullets seem redundant.
- Provide documentation that organization is a non-profit 501(c)(3) and recognized as a nonprofit organization by the S.C. Secretary of State. Include a copy of the letter from IRS or S.C. proof of incorporation.
 - Submit a Certificate of Existence, also known as a Certificate of Good Standing, from the Secretary of State. This certificate states that an entity is in good standing with the Secretary of State's Office, and has, to the best of the Secretary of State's knowledge, filed all required tax returns with the Department of Revenue. The Certificate can be requested via: <https://web.sc.gov/SOSDocumentRetrieval/Welcome.aspx>

In the interest of saving space due to page limitations, can the Certificate of Existence also serve as documentation that the applicant organization is "recognized as a nonprofit organization by the SC Secretary of State", and "S.C. proof of incorporation?" The Certificate of Existence received from the Secretary of State lists our organization as a non-profit corporation, thereby providing what is asked for in the first bullet listed above (please see attachment). It seems that the first bullet listed above should ask for IRS letter proving nonprofit status, and the 2nd bullet listed above covers what is required in the in the preceding bullet. Can DHEC please look at these two bullets and see if there is redundancy or provide more explanation for what is required in each bullet?

Response: The Certificate of Existence from the SC Secretary of State's office verifies that the organization is a Nonprofit Corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of S.C. and in good standing. No other documentation is required to satisfy both bulleted items.

4. On page 10 of the each RFGA, applicants are instructed to "Entities applying should restate each of the items listed below and provide their response immediately thereafter." The second bulleted item under 3. Implementation Plan... is quite lengthy. Would it be acceptable to simply restate the first sentence without providing the definition and other verbiage? This again is in the interest of saving space due to page limitations.

Response: Applicants may restate the first sentence only of each bullet.

5. Regarding the last two bullets under 5. Budget Narrative and Summary, is the applicant required to restate those bullets and respond or are those bullets provided as information?

Response: For uniformity and clarity to the review panel, please restate and address each bullet. Applicants should acknowledge that they will adhere to SC state government guidelines for travel. However, if that acknowledgement is covered in the budget narrative, then applicant can simply refer to the location without restating the information. The same would be true for explaining how indirect costs are reflected, if that information is stated in the budget narrative, simply reference the page number without restating the information.

From Organization #3:

1. What happens if I receive an award for partial funding of my requested amount?

Response: Awarded applicants who receive an award less than the full amount requested will be given opportunity to modify the budget and implementation plan submitted with the original proposal. Awardees may decline the award if it is determined that the program cannot be implemented with the amount awarded.

2. How will the new Title V language for Abstinence/Sexual Risk Avoidance Grants affect these RFGAs?

Response: At this time, DHEC has not received a funding opportunity announcement for federal FY18 funds from US DHHS. We received brief guidance from our Title V Project Officer that funding for FY18 “Sexual Risk Avoidance” State grants has been allocated and that a funding opportunity for states will be released in the near future. The guidance also clarified that the new funding will use the terminology of “Sexual Risk Avoidance” education instead of “Abstinence” education. As DHEC receives official guidance, we will evaluate the impact on state funds and will notify all potential applicants as well.

3. Will DHEC offer support (as in the past) for grantee staff members to obtain SRA certification or re-certification using grant funds?

Response: With the support of federal Title V funds, DHEC sponsored two opportunities for ASCEND’s SRA training and certification course in 2016-2017. The certification period is two years and recertification through ASCEND is achieved through on-line study, entirely. DHEC will include a request for support for continued professional development and a minimum level of training for all SC SRA educators in the future application for federal funds. If approved, DHEC will encourage and allow grantees to include in their 2018-19 program budgets @ \$300 per staff member to assist with the cost of SRA certification or recertification. All funding for this purpose will depend on DHEC’s receipt of FY 18 federal SRA funds.